



EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES

RIYADH • SAUDI ARABIA



Secretary Kerry Visits Kingdom of Saudi Arabia First Week of March



Riyadh, U.S. Embassy, February 20, 2013 – Secretary of State John Kerry will visit the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the first week of March as part of his first international tour after taking office earlier this month. The tour, which will start on February 24-March 6, will take him to 8 other nations in both Europe and the Middle East. While in Saudi Arabia, the Secretary will meet with the Saudi leadership and discuss US-Saudi cooperation on a broad range of shared concerns. He will also participate in a ministerial meeting with counterparts from Gulf Cooperation Council nations.

Following is the State Department's Spokesperson's statement on Secretary Kerry's travel:

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE Office of the Spokesperson

For Immediate
Release

February 19, 2013

2013/0180

STATEMENT BY VICTORIA NULAND, SPOKESPERSON

Secretary of State John Kerry's Travel to Europe and the Middle East

From February 24 to March 6, Secretary of State John Kerry will travel to the United Kingdom, Germany, France, Italy, Turkey, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Qatar.

The Secretary will travel first to London, the United Kingdom, where he will meet with senior British officials to discuss the range of bilateral and global issues on which we are closely coordinating.

He will then visit Berlin, Germany, where he will hold bilateral meetings on issues of mutual interest, as well as make a number of public appearances, including an exchange of views with



EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES

RIYADH • SAUDI ARABIA



German young people on the state of European-American relations. His visit to Berlin will also be an opportunity to reconnect with the city in which he lived as a child.

Secretary Kerry will then travel to Paris, France, with senior French officials to discuss our ongoing cooperation as part of the international effort to support Mali, as well as other issues of regional and global importance.

In Rome, Italy, he will meet with senior Italian government officials and participate in a number of bilateral and multilateral meetings with our European allies to review the wider trans-Atlantic relationship and to discuss issues of global concern. While in Rome, Secretary Kerry will participate in multilateral meetings on Syria, and with the leadership of the Syrian Opposition Coalition.

Secretary Kerry will then travel to Ankara, Turkey, where he will meet with Turkish officials to discuss our strategic priorities – from ending the crisis in Syria to promoting regional stability, peace, and security – as well as explore areas to deepen U.S.-Turkey bilateral cooperation, including counterterrorism cooperation.

In Cairo, Egypt, Secretary Kerry will meet with senior Egyptian officials, other political leaders, civil society leaders, and the business community to encourage greater political consensus and moving forward on economic reforms. While in Cairo, the Secretary will also meet with Arab League Secretary General Al-Araby to consult on our many shared challenges across the region.

The Secretary will then travel to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, to meet with the Saudi leadership and discuss our cooperation on a broad range of shared concerns. He will also participate in a ministerial meeting with counterparts from Gulf Cooperation Council nations. He will then visit Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, to meet with senior officials and discuss our continued close coordination on issues of mutual interest.

The Secretary will conclude his trip in Doha, Qatar, where he will meet with Qatari leadership to discuss shared bilateral and regional issues of concern such as the ongoing crisis in Syria, Afghanistan, and Middle East peace.

###